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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Executive Director

FROM : Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : SIG (Space) Manned Space Station
Summary Report (U)

1. We concur in the findings on intelligence requirements for a manned space station presented in the draft NSSD 5-83 Space Station Summary Report. There are no requirements that would necessitate the development of a manned space station as an intelligence collection platform, or where requirements satisfaction would be significantly enhanced relative to alternative collection methods. We do feel that areas of long term interest exist, as noted in the report, and consequently support an evolutionary approach to space exploitation. (C)

2. The space program alternatives presented in the study only touch on the several scenarios for possible development. We recognize the need for development of space shuttle capabilities to enhance national security operations in space, but the selection of a particular scenario for pursuit also should consider a variety of options beyond those related only to furthering man's role in space. (C)

3. We also believe that the discussion on page 2 under Leadership which addresses US-USSR competition should be amended. The Soviet development of a permanently manned space station will likely evolve from the current SALYUT program. The forthcoming NIE 11-1-83 states that a permanent manned presence will be established by about 1986 by combining several SALYUT 7 sized modules with a crew of 6 to 12. A larger Soviet station made up of Skylab-sized modules with a crew of about 20 is expected in the 1990's with

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the first module launched by 1990. However, NASA plans for a manned presence in space have taken a different course with the Skylab, the Shuttle, and the proposed manned space station. In sum, the US and USSR have taken different approaches to space development. Accordingly, the single point comparison in the text--attributed to the Intelligence Community--projecting earlier Soviet establishment of a permanent manned space presence is incomplete and does not necessarily indicate a change in space leadership. (TS)



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